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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5362

INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0225

RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

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RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0674

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 000196

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REL AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2018

TAGS: PTER PGOV EAID PREL I2

SUBJECT: PRT NINEWA: MOSUL UNDER CURFEW AFTER MASSIVE
JANUARY 23 EXPLOSION

Classified By: Nineva PRT Leader Jason Hyland for reasons 1.4b,d.

¶1. (U) This is a PRT Nineva reporting cable.

Mosul Tense After Explosion

¶2. (C/REL ACGU) On January 23, a large explosion in the Zanjali neighborhood in northwestern Mosul killed at least 25 Iraqi civilians, three Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers, and wounded over 170 civilians, according to local Ministry of Health (MOH) sources. The Qsaulty total will likely change as recovery operations continue. The vast majority of casualties are Iraqi civilians. No Americans were injured in the initial attack. Rescue/recovery efforts continued throughout the night and the IA, with Iraqi Police (IP) and Coalition Force (CF) assistance, are working to secure the area. The city is now under curfew, but the security situation appears to be under control, with the new Nineva Operations Command Chief playing a key coordinating role.

Secondary Attack Kills Police Chief

¶3. (C/REL ACGU) During follow-on security operations on January 24 in the vicinity of the bomb site, Iraqi and Coalition forces came under attack. Nineva Provincial Director of Police (PDOP) BG Salih Mohammed Hassan was killed by a suicide bomber. The previous PDOP, MG Wathiq, will be returning to Mosul to oversee police operations, at least in the interim.

Local Officials Follow Up

¶4. (C/REL ACGU) MND-N Deputy Commanding General BG Thomas, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3ACR) Commanding Officer COL Bills and PRT Leader Hyland went to Provincial Hall on January 24 to meet Nineva Governor Duraid Kashmoula, recently appointed Nineva Operations Command head MG Riyadh, and other senior Iraqi military commanders to discuss the incident. Kashmoula described the citizens in the vicinity as understandably angry. He said he had instructed the Provincial Government and Provincial Director Generals to provide all possible support to the affected community, including providing shelter and jobs and the restoration of essential services. He said he had also contacted the Prime Minister's Office to request immediate emergency funds and to declare the affected zone a disaster area. (Note: Both Riyadh and Kashmoula called the Prime Minister's Office and

other Baghdad contacts during the meeting. End Note.) After hearing news of the killing of the Police Chief and other terrorist attacks, Governor Ka shmoula and MG Riyadh decided to enforce a curfew from 1200 January 24 and announced it over a taped televised statement. (Note: In driving through the streets of Mosul immediately after the meeting, PRT Leader observed store fronts shuttered and the streets nearly deserted. In a flyover of the area with military leaders later in the day, PRT Leader saw at least a city block in rubble, surrounded by one- and two-story houses in a poor neighborhood. There were still dozens of people at the site, even after the curfew. End Note.)

PRT Partners Stepping Up to Help

15. (SBU) The PRT convened an emergency action committee to assist the Nineva government and coordinate with coalition forces. USAID implementing partners, International Medical Corps (IMC) and International Relief and Development (IRD), are leading the PRT's efforts. IRD sent stocks of medical supplies to Mosul hospitals on January 23. IMC and MOH sent large quantities of needed trauma and surgical supplies to the two main Mosul hospitals. IMC is already preparing further resupply efforts in coordination with the MOH and the Iraqi Red Crescent. Based on a secondary assessment, IMC is doubling the initial resupply amount to help address long-standing undersupply issues at Mosul's major hospitals. The supplies are expected to come from the Kurdistan Region in the next 12-48 hours. 3ACR is providing all essential security support to the IA and IP. MND-N is planning to send emergency material such as search dogs and engineering equipment.

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Comment: Quick Response Needed from GOI

16. (C/REL AGCU) The Iraqi Security Forces and the Provincial Government have done what they can do to take control of the situation on the ground at the site. Governor Kashmoula and MG Riyadh have both now requested assistance from the Prime Minister's office in Baghdad. The PRT has been coordinating with our Embassy colleagues to push the GOI to get aid and assistance for this crisis into Mosul as quickly as possible.

(Note: The PM's office has responded positively and the Governor claimed that the PM was going to send a team up with money soon. End Note.) Much of the public's perception in the first few hours immediately after the event was shaped by rumor and an information campaign by the terrorists to make the government look weak and ineffective. By moving quickly and providing the emergency aid needed, the central GOI, along with the Provincial Government and the Iraqi Security Forces, can come out of this crisis looking stronger and more effective than ever. The PRT will continue to work closely with our military and Iraqi colleagues to help ensure that emergency assistance is provided quickly and effectively.

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